



Gayle McKeachnie  
Lieutenant Governor

Amy Naccarato  
Director

## State of Utah

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **VOTING EQUIPMENT SELECTION COMMITTEE NAMED BY LT. GOV. McKEACHNIE**

*Committee is charged with ensuring the election system selected is cost efficient, secure, accessible and voter friendly.*

Today, Lt. Gov. Gayle McKeachnie announced the committee selected to oversee the \$20.5 million purchase of new voting equipment for the state of Utah.

"The members of the Voting Equipment Selection Committee have agreed to undertake a monumental task," said McKeachnie. "This group will be responsible for evaluating numerous voting systems based on economy, security, privacy, accessibility and ease of use. Ultimately, they will make the final decision on which system is selected."

Val Oveson, the chief information officer for the state of Utah, will chair the Selection Committee, which includes county officials, election administrators and technology professionals (a committee roster follows). The first committee meeting will be held March 11, 2004.

The replacement of Utah's current punch card, optical scan and paper voting systems is a major component of the State Plan on Election Reform, which was created in response to the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Utah is one of five remaining states administering elections predominantly on punch card voting systems.

In addition to the replacement of current voting systems, the State Plan on Election Reform provides for the improvement of voter registration and identification, increased civic education, and the training of poll workers. A majority of the expense to implement the State Plan on Election Reform, including the replacement of voting systems, will be provided by the federal government.

"I am pleased that we are moving forward with the State Plan on Election Reform," said McKeachnie. "The State Plan Committee has set the goals of placing one electronic voting machine in each polling place by November 2004 and having full implementation of the new machines by the 2006 general election. Naming the selection committee moves us closer to meeting these deadlines."

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For more information on the Voting Equipment Selection Committee and the State Plan on Election Reform, please contact the State Office of Elections at (801)538-1041 or visit [www.elections.utah.gov](http://www.elections.utah.gov).

**Members of the Election Equipment Selection Committee include:**

Val Oveson, Chief Information Officer, State of Utah  
Luann Adams, County Clerk, Box Elder County  
Bill Gibson, Director, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Steve Harmsen, County Commissioner, Salt Lake County  
Mark Langston, Information Technology Director, Davis County  
Linda Lunceford, County Clerk, Weber County  
Liz McCoy, Disability Advocate, Disability Law Center  
Amy Naccarato, Director of Elections, State of Utah  
Ray Palmer, Director of Information Technology, State of Utah  
Robert Pero, County Clerk, Carbon County  
Neil Peterson, Director of Information Technology, Utah County  
Sherrie Swensen, County Clerk, Salt Lake County  
David Yardley, County Clerk, Iron County

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